



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)
E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us
WEB SITE: www.dva.state.wi.us
FAX: (608) 267-0403

February 20, 2008

Representative Terry Musser, Chair
Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
State Capitol 11 West
Madison, WI 53708

RE: 2007 Assembly Bill 810

Dear Chairman Musser and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the state's more than 448,000 veterans we serve, thank you for holding a hearing on 2007 Assembly Bill 810, which will assist National Guard service members without qualifying active duty military service but with at least six years of National Guard service under honorable conditions to be eligible for the Wisconsin state veterans home mortgage loan program.

An unfortunate hole in the law was recently discovered through legislative casework on behalf of a service member with continuous service in the Wisconsin National Guard since 2000 who was denied eligibility for the state veterans home loan program because her military service in the National Guard was split between the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. We are appreciative of Rep. Musser's legislative efforts to rectify this situation.

We are in full support of this legislation. Additionally, we strongly encourage an amendment to AB 810 that would allow for the requisite six-year period to be in any combination of Guard or Reserve service, regardless of military branch and regardless of whether part of the six-year period of service is with a State's National Guard and another part is with the Reserves. We also encourage an amendment to AB 810 that would remove the requirement that the six-year period be continuous service; without such an amendment, an otherwise eligible service member with just one day between periods of service totaling six or more years would be required to be found ineligible.

Again, thank you for holding a committee hearing on this important bill, and for your continued advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans.

Sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Scocos", is written over the typed name and title.

JOHN A. SCOCOS
Secretary

cc: Sen. Jim Sullivan